United Nations S/2015/524

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2015
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 9 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw to your attention the following:

The terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (QDe.115) recently uploaded a video clip to one of its websites showing the mass execution of a number of Syrian Arab Army soldiers. That execution took place in the ancient theatre in the historic city of Palmyra, a World Heritage Site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The execution was carried out by a firing squad composed of child members of ISIL between the ages of 13 and 15 who were wearing military uniforms. ISIL has sought to recruit children into its ranks and uses them when carrying out its heinous acts of terrorism. ISIL also forced hundreds of male civilians and children to witness the mass killing.

This criminal act is a continuation of the brutal acts of terrorism that have been committed by ISIL, which continues to devise brutal methods to terrorize and intimidate. Moreover, following their takeover of Palmyra, ISIL terrorists massacred hundreds of Syrian residents of the city and prevented thousands of others from leaving. They also took many families and youths to unknown locations.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that, as was made clear in the seventeenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2161 (2014) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities (S/2015/441), ISIL is growing and that terrorist organizations around the world have sworn allegiance to that organization. It also emphasizes that ISIL would be unable to continue committing acts of terrorism in so many countries were it not for the multifaceted support that the regimes of certain well-known States, to which we have drawn attention in all our previous letters to the Security Council, provide to terrorists and terrorist organizations that are active in Syrian territory. It furthermore stresses that terrorists are able to operate in Syria only because the international community has failed to combat the scourge of terrorism and stand firm against the Governments of States that are using terrorism to further their foreign policy agendas and narrow self-interests.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and on the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, to acknowledge the true nature of what is taking place and to draw attention to the role being played by the Governments and intelligence services of State sponsors of terrorism. The Syrian Government also calls on the Security Council to take action to hold those Governments accountable and compel them to fulfil their obligations under international counter-terrorism instruments and the relevant Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, including, in particular, resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1624 (2005), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

The Syrian Government also calls on the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to be alert to and to expose the efforts of certain States to whitewash the records of terrorist organizations listed by the Committee as entities associated with Al-Qaida. Those States are currently attempting to do so with regard to the Nusrah Front, and may in the future attempt to do so with regard to ISIL. Moreover, the omission of any reference to the terrorist Nusrah Front in the seventeenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team raises legitimate questions regarding the motives for that omission and the parties responsible for it.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative